Joint statement of the NATO-Ukraine Commission

2 December 2014, Brussels

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We, the NUC Foreign Ministers, have met today to discuss the developments in Ukraine and to review progress made in our joint work since NUC Heads of State and Government met at the Wales Summit on 4 September 2014.

We strongly condemn Russia's continued and deliberate destabilization of eastern Ukraine in breach of international law, including the provision of tanks, advanced air defence systems and other heavy weapons to the separatists, and military activities, which violate the agreements reached in Minsk in September. Russia's stated "respect" for the results of the separatists' so-called elections on 2 November, which we do not and will not recognise, has further exacerbated tensions. We condemn Russia's military build-up in Crimea, as well as the worsening human rights situation on the Crimean peninsula. We call on Russia to reverse its illegal and illegitimate self-declared "annexation" of Crimea, which we do not and will not recognise, and to respect the rights of the local population, including the native Crimean Tatars. Russia's actions undermine the security of Ukraine and have serious implications for the stability and security of the entire Euro-Atlantic area. In that regard, we are also concerned with Russia's stated plans for further military build-up on the Black Sea, which will potentially have further implications on the stability of the region.

We support the Minsk agreements, which offer a route towards a sustainable political solution of the crisis. We call on Russia to honour its commitments under the terms of the Minsk agreements, including: to withdraw its forces and military equipment from Ukrainian territory and along the Ukrainian border; to provide for effective international monitoring of the border and restore Ukrainian sovereignty over its side of the border; to allow for a political and a diplomatic solution to be negotiated, which respects Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internationally recognized borders. Russia must use its influence over the separatists to ensure they stop their attacks and abide by the ceasefire, release all hostages and honour all their commitments under the Minsk agreements. We commend and fully support the efforts of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to contribute to de-escalation and pursuing a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Allies welcome the free and fair conduct of the extraordinary parliamentary elections held in Ukraine on 26 October, despite challenging circumstances. The elections are a testimony to the Ukrainian people's commitment to freedom and democracy, and a future firmly anchored among European democracies, free to decide their own future and foreign policy course. Allies will continue to support, including through the Annual National Programme (ANP), Ukraine as it embarks on comprehensive reforms. The prompt implementation of such wide-ranging reforms to combat corruption and promote an inclusive political process, based on democratic values, respect for human rights, minorities and the rule of law, remains crucial for the consolidation of Ukrainian democracy and for its economic development.

Recalling the NUC Wales Summit Joint Statement, Allies are enhancing their support so that Ukraine can better provide for its own security. We have stepped up our cooperation in the framework of our Distinctive Partnership. We are strengthening our cooperation in the defence and security sector through capability development and sustainable capacity building programmes for Ukraine. Today, we are pleased to announce that the Trust Funds and projects on command, control,

communications and computers, logistics and standardisation, cyber defence, military career transition, and medical rehabilitation are operational. We will continue to promote the development of greater interoperability between Ukrainian and NATO forces. NATO's enhanced advisory presence in Kyiv is already in place and will continue to grow. As requested by Ukraine, Allies will continue to provide expertise as Ukraine completes its comprehensive defence and security sector review. The comprehensive reform agenda undertaken by Ukraine in the context of its ANP with NATO, as well as in the context of its Association Agreement with the EU, will further strengthen Ukraine. NATO and Allies will continue to support Ukraine in its reform efforts.

Ukraine welcomes the non-lethal material being provided by many Allies to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as the help being provided to treat wounded Ukrainian personnel, and in humanitarian demining. Ukraine is grateful for the humanitarian assistance being provided to the internally displaced population, and the substantial cooperation through the Science for Peace and Security programme. Ukraine also looks forward to exploring ways to deepen information exchange and strategic dialogue with the Alliance.

We reaffirm that an independent, sovereign and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to security in the Euro-Atlantic area, of which – as stated in the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership – Ukraine is an inseparable part. The Alliance continues its full support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

NATO OTAN NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Statement of Foreign Ministers on the Readiness Action Plan

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Today, we the Allied Foreign Ministers met to review implementation of the Readiness Action Plan. This has been the first high-level political meeting after the Wales Summit. We welcome progress achieved in delivering on the decisions taken by our Heads of State and Government.

The Readiness Action Plan agreed by Heads of State and Government at the Wales Summit is a response to the changed and broader security environment in and near Europe. It responds to the challenges posed by Russia and their strategic implications. It also responds to the risks and threats emanating from our southern neighbourhood, the Middle East and North Africa. Its implementation will significantly enhance NATO's readiness and responsiveness and will contribute to ensuring that NATO forces remain ready and able to respond swiftly and firmly to current and future challenges to the Alliance. It will strengthen both NATO's collective defence and crisis management capability.

Implementation of the Plan is well underway. Today, we reiterate the commitment of our nations to ensuring that NATO remains a strong, ready, robust and responsive Alliance. There is already an increased presence of NATO maritime, land and air forces and meaningful military activity in the eastern part of Alliance territory. All Allies are contributing to this defensive effort and they will continuously rotate air, maritime and land forces in the region and conduct additional exercises, 28 for

28, through 2015. This provides the fundamental baseline requirement for assurance and deterrence. These forces are effectively responding to increased Russian military activity, including through monitoring Russian military flights and maintaining the integrity and safety of our airspace. At the same time, we are enhancing the NATO Response Force's capabilities, including through the development of a new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, the VJTF. We welcome the establishment of an interim VJTF coordinated by SACEUR with forces predominantly from Germany, Norway and the Netherlands, available to the Alliance early in 2015.

Work on the other measures envisaged in the Readiness Action Plan is advancing rapidly, including on the establishment of an appropriate multinational command and control presence on the territories of the Eastern Allies. NATO Defence Ministers will further assess progress and take decisions, when they meet in February 2015, on enhancing the Alliance's readiness and responsiveness as part of the adaptation of NATO to the changed security environment, in line with the decisions taken at the Wales Summit.

NATO OTAN NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Joint statement by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, NATO and Resolute Support operational partners

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Today in Brussels President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah met with Foreign Ministers from NATO, operational partner nations and Afghanistan. They discussed final preparations for NATO's engagement in Afghanistan from 2015 and issued the following joint statement.

1. In a spirit of common understanding, we welcome the successful conclusion of the Presidential Elections and a constitutional political transition in Afghanistan, and the establishment of the National Unity Government which has shown its determination to implement urgently needed reforms, including advancing women's rights and empowerment. We also welcome Afghanistan's signature and ratification of the Status of Forces

Agreement with NATO and the Bilateral Security Agreement with the United States.

2. We honour the joint sacrifices made and applaud the results achieved over more than a decade, during which we have stood shoulder to shoulder to maintain and enhance security, and in support of international efforts to root out terrorism in Afghanistan. We note with great satisfaction that Afghan leaders have voiced their support for the declaration on Afghanistan made at the Wales Summit in September 2014. We will work together to carry forward our partnership and, with the wider international community, to continue to promote security, peace, development, human rights and rule of law in Afghanistan.
3. The Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) are currently in the lead for security throughout Afghanistan. From January 2015, they will have assumed full responsibility for security throughout Afghanistan and the nature and scope of NATO's support to Afghanistan will change. Today we agree to launch the Resolute Support Mission on 1 January 2015. This new non-combat mission will train, advise and assist the ANDSF.
4. Since the Wales Summit, when pledges for the sustainment of the ANDSF were confirmed, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and donors have reviewed and agreed to contribute to ANDSF funding requirements for 2015. Arrangements continue to be put in place to ensure transparency, accountability and cost effectiveness of contributions.
5. We agree to strengthen our Enduring Partnership. We will do this by enhancing practical cooperation, including building the capacity of Afghan security institutions, and by initiating political dialogue and regular consultations on a range of topics of mutual interest. We will also set up a senior level joint task force that will take this relationship forward.
6. It is our common understanding that the above mutually-reinforcing strands of NATO's engagement represent a significant continuing commitment and practical support by Allies and partners to Afghanistan. Today, we are proud to have started together a new chapter in our relationship.